

DISCOURSE DELIVERED BEFORE THE SOCIETY FOR
THE COMMEMORATION OF THE LANDING OF WILLIAM
PENN. INGERSOLL

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A DISCOURSE

DELIVERED BEFORE THE SOCIETY

FOR THE

COMMEMORATION OF THE LANDING

OF

WILLIAM PENN.

ON THE 24TH OF OCTOBER, 1825.

BY C. J. INGERSOLL, Esq.

Tu spiegherai, Columbo, a un nuovo polo
Lontane sì le fortunate antenne,
Ch'appena seguirà con gli occhi il volo
La Fama, ch'ha mille ochi e mille penne,
Canti ella Alcide e Bacco, e di te Solo
Basti a' posteri tuoi ch'alquanto accenne;
Chè quel poco darà lunga memoria
Di poema degnissima e d'Istoria.

Tasso, Gerus. Lib. Canto XV.

PUBLISHED BY REQUEST OF THE SOCIETY.

PHILADELPHIA:

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1825.

1652560

AT a Meeting of "The Society for the Commemoration of the Landing of WILLIAM PENN," held on the 24th of October 1825,

Resolved that the thanks of the Society be given to Mr. INGERSOLL, for his eloquent and instructive discourse pronounced this day ; and that he be requested to furnish a copy for publication.

Extract from the Minutes.

T. I. WHARTON,

Recording Secretary.

9516 L.C. (Pa.)

** In a letter of the 5th of January, 1681, he thus characteristically expresses himself:—"This day, after many waitings, wearings, sollicitings, and disputes in Council, my country was confirmed to me under the Great Seal of England; with large powers and privileges, by the name of Pennsylvania—a name*

A DISCOURSE, &c.

THE memory of Penn might suggest recollections of the flourishing Commonwealth that bears his name ; indeed of the great Empire of which Pennsylvania is the heart. But the City of his foundation will afford materials enough for my humble exposition of his principles, according to the design of this Society to commemorate them : and I trust that the subject will not prove an unprofitable or improper one. Let us then devote this Anniversary of Penn's advent, to a review of his providence, and celebration of his virtues, by a brief selection of the most remarkable indications of Philadelphia.*

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It is 142 years this day since the landing, which was soon followed by the purchase on peaceable and generous terms, of the site of what then was called the *great town* : whether from the Indians, or certain Swedish proprietors, is not quite certain. Since then, 1,200,000 civilised people have become inhabitants of Pennsylvania, of whom one hundred and forty thousand reside in Philadelphia: the number of the latter increasing at the rate of rather more than two thousand a year ; and thus affording one of the strongest among the received tests of general happiness. As many, or more dwellings, stores, factories, and public edifices, are building this year as in any year since the beginning. In every direction over an area of several miles, substantial homesteads have been put up, mostly of the size and construction that

the King would give it in honour of my father. I chose New Wales, being a hilly country : and when the Secretary, a Welchman, refused to call it New Wales, I proposed Sylvania, and they added Penn to it : though I much opposed it, and went to the King to have it struck out. He said t'was past, and he would take it upon him : nor could twenty guineas move the under Secretary to vary the name : for I feared it should be looked on as a vanity in me, and not as a respect in the King to my father, as it really was. Thou may'st communicate my grant to Friends, and expect shortly my proposals. 'Tis a dear and just thing, and my God that has given it me through many difficulties, will, I believe, bless and make it the seed of a nation. I shall have a tender care to the government that it be well laid at first."

belong to neither poverty nor riches, but that competent class which is the substance of every state. All of them have been reared from the lumber of our own woods, the marbles and bricks of our own immediate neighbourhood, the cement, and, principally, the iron, of our own soil and workmanship. The ship-yards on the Delaware are building upwards of ten thousand five hundred tons of shipping ; being actively employed in the construction of vessels, to go by steam and by sail, of every denomination, from the largest ship of war in the world, through every kind of commercial to the smallest river craft. The wharves on the Schuylkill—of whose importance Penn's views are about to be realised at this late period—are for the first time resorted to by burthensome vessels from over sea, for freights of that inestimable fuel contributed by the mother earth of Pennsylvania, in a mineral more valuable than the precious metals. Poured in for consumption and exportation, as it is, from the shores of the Lehigh and the Susquehanna, as well as the Schuylkill. when we advert to what the coal trade alone has done for the port of London, it is not fanciful to anticipate revolutions in commerce, manufactures, and capital, which it is destined to bring about here. The first large substantial brick store, if I am not mistaken, is now raising on the margin of the Schuylkill, within

the city of Philadelphia : and I hardly consider it visionary to regard this store as marking an æra in the providence of Penn, and the prosperity of Pennsylvania. Public conception is not yet awakened to this vital resource, just emerging from the bosom of the State : and we do not foresee its effects on manufactures and commerce, while considering it merely as a substitute for wood for our consumption as fuel. Even in that limited view it is sufficiently important, when we reckon three hundred thousand cords of wood, at five dollars a cord, hauled, cut and put away, or one million five hundred thousand dollars, as the annual consumption of Philadelphia. Estimating ten bushels of anthracite coal to be equal to one cord of good oak wood, the annual consumption would be three millions of bushels, which, at 25 cents each, amount to \$750,000 ; thus saving that sum to this city, by the substitution of coal for wood. This, however, is a very limited view. When we advert to the fact, that almost every part of Pennsylvania abounds with every variety of this fossil, and with all kinds of iron ores, wanting nothing but facilities for transportation to market, a vast increase of manufactures, of coasting and foreign trade, and of homebred seamen for our commercial and military marine, must be perceived as the natural offspring. The modern experience of England

proves this to be no sanguine expectation. In its effects on the manufactures, commerce, wealth, and power of Great Britain, and particularly the port of London, the coal trade has transcended all calculation. In 1824, the city of London imported 40,301,304 bushels, or 1,531,541 tons of coal, conveyed in 5160 voyages of vessels of from 200 to 300 tons each. At times within the last ten years, the coal trade of London has been accounted the most, if not the only, lucrative branch of the commerce of that great port. As a nursery of seamen, it may render Philadelphia equal to Nantucket. Pittsburgh and Philadelphia are the keys to a region enjoying in coal and iron, advantages over any other in the world, which cannot fail to develop the most extensive manufactures and commerce: and from which it is by no means extravagant to imagine Pennsylvania ultimately, as it were, one vast town, inhabited by ten millions of industrious people.

The banks of the Delaware, the Schuylkill, the Brandywine, with all their tributary streams of this neighbourhood, are planting with manufactories of cotton and woollen, fur, lumber, iron, grain, and the various other staples of the country. The environs of Philadelphia are literally enlivened by the music of shuttles—the music of domestic employment, public wealth, individual and national independence. The shops and stores

are filled with home manufactures; some of them sparkling with the most beautiful master-works of silver, cutlery, and glass; others constantly replenishing with the materials of comfort in constant request; all of them gradually, but permanently supplanting those for which tribute money is paid to foreigners. In manufactures, as in many things, quantity is part of the wages of quality, and the increase of those of this country, is not more obvious than their amelioration. Twelve years ago great distress was experienced from absolute want of articles of the first necessity, their usual supply from abroad being cut off by war with the great mart of them. Since that second edition of American Independence, the cause of their increase is perceptible by every one, in the improvements that have taken place in the houses, shipping, pleasure carriages, cloathing of every kind, furniture, cabinet, silver, and plated ware, writing and hanging-papers, glass, cutlery, and many other things, of which, it is very probable, I omit the enumeration. Not only the texture, substance, and durability, but the style, taste, finish, and elegance of all these fabrics, are striking to any observation. In elegance and fashion they commonly approach, often surpass, the European standards. A person may now be as cheaply and well dressed, in domestic, as in foreign manufactures, including flannel, muslin, cot-

ton, woollen, cloth, casimere, leather, fur, metal, and every other article of cloathing. Carriages of all kinds for pleasure and burthen are made in Philadelphia in great numbers, for use here, and for exportation, equal in appearance and convenience to any made in Europe; without a single material that is not manufactured here. Some of our cotton goods are already preferred in foreign markets. Our fine writing paper is more approved than the English in Asia, notwithstanding their habitual ascendancy there. Our woollens are more substantial, having more wool and better wool in them. In the noblest of all manufactures, the finest ships that float, whether for war or peace, Europe cannot compare with the ship-wrights of Philadelphia.

The foreign commerce of Philadelphia is steadily advancing on durable foundations. In addition to bread stuffs, hitherto the most considerable domestic article of exportation, the shipping of the port is freighted with productions of national industry. The commercial and manufacturing guilds are apt to fear each others prosperity;—but Great Britain has risen on their union to astonishing opulence; and in Philadelphia they certainly thrive together. The imports of this port have increased only \$20,768 in the last three years—being \$12,340,210 in 1822, and \$12,360,978 in 1825: whereas the exports have

increased \$1,741,969 in the same period; being 8,765,987 in 1822, and \$10,507,956 in 1825. In 1822 the value exported in foreign vessels was \$548,987; this year it is but \$76,757 giving a difference of \$472,230 transferred to our own vessels. The outstanding registered tonnage of Philadelphia, in 1822 was 54,612: in 1825 it is 59,572, an increase of 4960 tons. The enrolled and licensed coasting tonnage in 1822 was 21,812—in 1825 it is 25,472, an increase of 3660. The licensed vessels under twenty tons, in 1822 amounted to a tonnage of 3102; in 1825 it is 3496. The impost in 1822 was \$3,646,425—in 1824 \$4,302,797. This year it amounts to \$5,234,993; an increase of nearly two millions in three years. Only an inconsiderable portion of this progressive improvement is ascribable to the new tariff. The prime commodities, wines, teas, spirits, sugar, coffee, and many other articles are unaffected by it. And as a steady advancement in all the objects of commercial industry is indicated by these details, it may be assumed as substantial. The establishment of several lines of packets, has no doubt contributed essentially to improve the commerce and navigation of Philadelphia, which in their turn stimulate industry and enterprise in every branch of business.

The navy-yard is of great importance to Philadelphia by its constant demand for a large quan-

tity and variety of materials and manufactures ; and by not only employing but improving numerous mechanics in all the arts connected with the construction and equipment of vessels of war. Its location is peculiarly favourable as a naval depot and building-yard, secure from hostile incursions, from the more to be dreaded ravages of sea-worms, and from animal and vegetable substances, which in salt water, are extremely detrimental to ships. The finest and cheapest ships in the service have been built at this yard. The superintendant of it with a professional ardour, the pledge of excellence, performed a voyage to England at his own expense, to examine the master-works of that kingdom ; where he was admitted to the dock-yards and naval arsenals, with magnanimous liberality, under the introduction of our townsman and minister there, who thinks that few, if any, of the public ministers, from America to Europe have rendered more valuable services to their country than this enterprising ship-wright.

A disciple of Penn might remark, that what have been called the golden days of the commercial prosperity of this country, cost it several wars ; at least two hundred millions of dollars ; of which a large amount still remains due, in funded debt, and many millions in the more odious medium of demands for spoliations on foreign powers. Perhaps we have had equivalents for

all this bloodshed and treasure. But a rational regret may be indulged that some small part of the expenditure has not been bestowed on less ostentatious but more substantial objects. Within a short period the navigation of the Delaware has been facilitated by the erection of a light-house on Cape May; a beacon-light, on the pitch of Cape Henlopen; two floating lights in the bay of Delaware, and a permanent light on fort Delaware. Several hundred thousand dollars have been disbursed in the construction of that fortress. But the chamber of commerce of this city have earnestly urged an improvement which is yet in the mere beginning of its consideration. In July 1823, skilful officers appointed by the government of the union, reported plans for a break-water at the mouth of the Delaware where there are great natural advantages for such a work. The complete success of similar improvements at Plymouth in England, and Cherbourg in France leave no doubt of the success of it here. The plan reported may be completed at a cost of \$2,326,000, so as to afford a harbour and perfect shelter, for the vast coasting trade of the Atlantic board; to save property and lives to an incalculable amount, and to protect that commerce, which is the most important source of the strength and wealth of this country. One half of the tithe of the war-like expenditure, would afford this magnificent

safe-guard. Without lamenting the charges of foreign commerce and war, but on the contrary, glorying in the national wealth, grandeur, character and security they have established, we may be allowed to hope that hereafter, more care will be taken of the citadel without abandoning any of the outworks.

The primary arts and sciences of necessity and usefulness, husbandry, building, commerce and manufactures have advanced to a state of perfection to be compared with the oldest and most refined nations. But an opinion or apprehension prevails that our political meridian is not adapted to the luxuries of architecture, sculpture, painting and music. Doubts have indeed been expressed as to polite literature also. The modern republics of Italy, in which all the fine arts began and flourished to the highest degree, are historical refutations of this disparagement. The ancient republics teem with redeeming arguments for our consolation; and the short career of this country, of this city, is the best practical proof that liberty and equality are the most powerful protectors of every art and science.

The academy of Fine Arts has ripened under the culture of its zealous and indefatigable President to become an eminent school and collection of paintings, statuary, engravings and models of which all liberal and qualified foreigners speak

with applause. It has amassed a property of about \$20,000 ; and has an income from visitors of about \$1000 a year. \$3500 were paid for a single picture in it from the pallet of an American painter. At the last annual exhibition, pictures were shewn by near fifty American painters in history, portrait, landscape, and miniature ; some of them of an eminence acknowledged in London as well as Philadelphia. Engraving, sculpture, and architecture, were likewise represented there by the prints, busts, and models of our own artists. Some of the most masterly works, both on canvass and in marble displayed there, it is due to him to mention, belong to a personage, who, after wearing the crowns of two of the most ancient kingdoms of Europe, resides in and near Philadelphia, enjoying in exile the respect of the inhabitants; *freed* (in the language of one of Penn's early letters) *from the anxious and troublesome solicitations, hurries and perplexities of woeful Europe*. To another prince of the same illustrious family we owe a recent publication in this city of the most splendid specimens of the arts of design, engraving, paper-making, printing and book-binding.

Among the many distinguished painters with whom England has been supplied by this country, the founder of the English school of historical painting went from Philadelphia. The well known

picture presented by him to the Pennsylvania Hospital affords some curious particulars. It is exhibited in a house built and appropriated for that sole purpose, at a cost of nearly \$14,000 ; which is probably more than ever was bestowed elsewhere on the apartment of a single picture : and the avails of its exhibition during seven years amount to nearly \$17,000, received from upwards of sixty-two thousand persons who have paid to see it.

There are also some respectable private collections of paintings : besides that of the personage before alluded to, which is on a scale of regal and Italian excellence.

The churches, hospitals, banks, theatres, and other public buildings of Philadelphia bespeak no lack of either enterprise or taste in architecture. The dwelling houses are remarkable for symmetry and convenience. That ancient and peculiar people, the Jews, exempted from the humiliation which characterises their existence in Europe, have lately erected a synagogue of a very neat and apposite design. Many, probably most, of the ornamental places of worship recently built in this city, were endowed from the singular resource—unknown wherever liberty is not the parent of eloquence—of the oratorical attractions of their zealous pastors ; whose discourses have literally raised the means for constructing many

beautiful edifices dedicated to the service of the Almighty. If in his order the spirits of the just made perfect in a better world are permitted to enjoy a knowledge of this, conceive the ineffable gratification of the immortal founder of that religious tolerance which, since he proclaimed it in Philadelphia has extended throughout so much of Christendom, when he perceives its divine benefits in this land of his promise. Sects as numberless as their rites are various living together in perfect social harmony : from the gorgeous and mysterious adoration of the oldest, in the midst of incense, imagery, symphonies and sacraments, through every refinement of reformation, to the plain meeting of the people of his own persuasion, in sublimated silence and spirituality, without psalmody, sacrament or ceremony. All, however, differing in forms, an immortalised being might say, teaching the morality of the same scriptures, and the necessity of that morality for a sanction here and future salvation. They do not torture, burn and butcher each other : but live together in charity and peace : and spontaneous christianity, diversified by endless creeds, flourishes among them far beyond the power of forcible propagation.

Descended as we are mostly from the least musical people of the world, ancient or modern, and settled as our country was at first by those who

proscribed music from religious exercises, and as this city particularly is by many who reject it from domestic pastime, such as cherish it as a delightful recreation, may be satisfied when they call to mind that its cultivation is a common part of the education of one sex among us, and that an extensive Hall has lately been appropriated in Philadelphia to musical performances.

I shall not attempt to enumerate the many philosophical, literary, and scientific institutions that abound, to prove that polite literature, as well as useful science, are constantly and successfully disseminated. It is not probable that large private libraries and collections will exist, where fortunes are moderate, and continually changing owners. But numerous public libraries always accumulating, leave nothing to desire or to fear in this respect. It is a colonial apprehension, which prevails most among those who ought to be most free from it, that the higher refinements are not our lot, and that we have exchanged those luxuries of the few for the political enjoyments of the many. The evaporation of this error has been in rapid process during the last ten years, in which period more of it has disappeared than in the thirty years before. When it is recollected that but half a century has been allowed yet to disprove the prejudice, and establish the contrary, there can be little doubt that half a century more will do both

effectually. Being asked in Europe what was the average longevity of Philadelphia, Dr. Franklin answered that he could not tell till an old woman died, who was the first native of the place.

It is certainly, however, in the useful arts that the greatest progress has taken place: and it is most encouraging to see how associations of individuals supply the place of opulent patrons. A late evidence of this is the Franklin Institute, by which the mechanic arts are to be scientifically taught in gratuitous lectures, and represented in annual fairs. Popular munificence is erecting a noble temple for the purposes of these excellent plans of popular instruction.

The charitable institutions, hospitals, asylums for the aged and orphan, alms-houses, provident societies, and infirmaries, are the just pride of Philadelphia, whether their stately edifices, excellent discipline, or admirable benefactions are considered. Among these, one of the most recent and interesting is that for the education of the deaf and dumb, to which the Legislature of Pennsylvania liberally subscribed in a glow of sympathy for the poor and desolate, worthy and indicative of popular government; and for which also an extensive building has just been erected.

Agriculture and horticulture shew their successes in one of the best markets in the world; while every department of rural economy is zea-

lously promoted by agricultural societies in this vicinity, which unite scientific to practical knowledge in husbandry. The heathen mythology deified the earth as the mother of plenty : and the prolific sunbeam has had nations of worshippers in America. With more rational attachment, the inhabitants of Pennsylvania may bless their stars without the idolatry of the children of the sun, and venerate their soil without the Pagan apotheosis

Some public spirited persons have formed a society of internal improvement for the general development of the statistical resources of Pennsylvania. With a zeal worthy the imitation and the power of the governments of both the State and the Union, they have sent a mission to Europe, to ascertain and bring hither the prodigious improvements which have raised fifteen millions of people in England, to the power and pre-eminence of a nation of a hundred millions—a more important embassy than any other we support in Europe.

Our obvious policy is to learn from the experience of Europe : and where innovation is doubtful, to let the expense and risque of experiment be borne there before we make attempts. The French Revolution and British Freedom have introduced vast improvements. But, without vain boasting, I think it is demonstrable, that the home of dis-

covery and enterprise will be fixed on the American side of the Atlantic ; where genius will have greater inducements and larger scope, than is possible, without perfect liberty in new countries. About six years ago, a highly ingenious and successful inventor went from Philadelphia to London, naturally attracted by the strong allurements of that immense emporium : whose success has not been equal to our expectations, nor to his deserts : and it may be doubted whether, in the mighty contests waging by mind against matter, he would not have won more important and profitable victories in America than in Europe. A few years since, an obscure native of this neighbourhood, brought up to a trade in Philadelphia, conceived, what he deemed, some great practical improvements. He went to England, and sought the patronage of the ministry, and others, who were men of superior talents, for the trial of his schemes. Discountenanced by them, he proceeded to France, and endeavoured to impress the Emperor, proverbial for sagacity, and environed by men of great attainments, with, not only the feasibility of his projects, but their vital utility to the French government. Rejected and disappointed there too, our adventurer at last returned, after many years of fruitless courtship in Europe ; still not despairing ; and, with assistance from a distin-

guished individual, tried the most forlorn and derided of his plans at home. What had been found wanting by monarchs, and statesmen, and philosophers, in Europe, succeeded in the infallible ordeal of popular conviction in America. The projector was Fulton. The project was the steam boat; which, in seventeen years, has already annihilated the magnificent spaces of this continent, done more perhaps than an excellent political organisation for the union of the States, and is fast bringing Europe, Asia, Africa, and America, the four corners of the earth together. May it please that unknown God, to whom, six hundred years before Mahomet appeared, St. Paul found an altar in Athens, as he propagated Christianity by means of fishermen and tent-makers, overcoming the disdainful barbarism of kings and arch-priests, to grant, that the experiment about to be made with the steam-boat, for liberating the most oppressed of Christians, and humbling the most ruthless of Infidels, shall triumph in Greece as it succeeded in America!

Acknowledging the merits of that benefactor, whom we claim, indeed and cherish, as our own, it is, nevertheless, the sacred duty of this city to rescue from unjust oblivion and record in imperishable history, the pretensions of an humble but deserving inventor, John Fitch, who, here, upon the Delaware, full eighteen years before it was

launched or tried upon the Hudson, navigated the steam-boat at the rate of five miles an hour, from Philadelphia to Bordentown, in every appliance, excepting some inconsiderable difference about the wheels, the same inimitable contrivance that has canonised the name of Fulton, and will mark this age when Napoleon and Alexander are forgotten. Fitch's boat was constructed at Shackamaxon, or Kensington, where the famous treaty of Penn and Tamany took place. Morris, Wilson, and others of our eminent citizens aided the design: and though for the time it languished, there is renown enough from such an application, as it has proved, of genius to motion, to share among all to whom any part belongs. When Rumsey made his essay on the Potomac, and Fitch on the Delaware, public resource was hardly ripe for the result. The public travelling was so inconsiderable, that not more than a very few persons at a time could be conveyed between the cities of New York and Philadelphia: and the journey was long, fatiguing, expensive, uncomfortable, and dangerous. During the current season, three hundred passengers have been the daily average between these cities, going in twelve hours, with every luxury of accommodation, and at such insignificant expense, that, by a discovery in the economy of travelling, it is proved that the cheapest is the most productive: for no bounty

or patronage cultivates with the judgment or effect of popular inclination.

The expensive (unnecessarily expensive) improvements in the navigation of the Schuylkill, may be said to be accomplished. A merchant of Philadelphia, who has acquired the largest commercial fortune in the world, and does not waste it as the rich merchant of Antwerp is said to have done in kindling fires of spices to incense viceroy—advanced several hundred thousand dollars, to sustain this effort in time of need. The Union Canal, to bring 800 miles of the shores of the Susquehanna and its dependencies into water communication with Philadelphia, is in partial operation. The Chesapeake and Delaware Canal is in such forwardness as to promise its completion in two years. The Raritan and Delaware Canal is begun in the assurance that it will also be finished in two years or sooner. The great junction of the Delaware with the Western lakes and rivers is under earnest preliminary enterprise. And railways, which, with steam carriages upon them, are the last and utmost achievement of philosophical transportation, are about to be put in use between the Schuylkill and Delaware, through Philadelphia, perhaps likewise throughout Pennsylvania.

The centrality, capital, enterprise, and advance, of Philadelphia, must render it one of the abiding

places of the internal traffic of this continent. But in contemplating its expansion, the mind is raised above the consideration of any one spot to the magnificent spectacle which the whole presents. Beginning with the projected improvements in Massachusetts, and tracing the course of partly artificial, mostly natural, interior navigation, through Long Island Sound, the Jersey and Delaware Canals, the Chesapeake and North Carolina Canals to Florida, and by a canal through that isthmus to Mexico, the whole Atlantic coast is connected within a distance of a few days communication: while the configuration of the West from Lake Superior to Ponchartrain, brings all that region into similar intercourse. The recent sovereignties of the South guaranty such improvements throughout the whole American Hemisphere; including a canal from the Atlantic to the Pacific: and present the New World to the admiration of the Old, in a state of union, commerce, and strength, infinitely superior to the force of Russian war, or the comparatively insignificant security of armies and fortifications. To say that our political organisation does not allow the united prosecution and establishment of these designs, is to argue, that we have a government, which cannot avail itself of the bounties of providence: and to pause at the expense, would be a singular infatuation for a community, which,

within the three last months, has lost, by what is called speculation, in a single raw material, as much as would accomplish the whole navigation in question.

About sixty thousand inhabitants of Philadelphia, considerably burthened by taxation, at an outlay exceeding two millions of dollars, of which a million and a half were disbursed in abortive projects, leaving but \$450,000 for what has succeeded, have provided the city with an inexhaustible supply of wholesome water; diminishing the number, and assuaging the character of its diseases, and vouchsafing it from extensive conflagrations. Half a million is added by the rents of this aqueduct to the capital of the city; besides a sinking fund of near three hundred thousand dollars. Would that it might prove the fountain of temperance! To be descended from nations, whose love of freedom is instinctive, is a blessing to redeem many faults; but our northern extraction has enslaved us to the habit of drinking ardent liquors to excess, eating animal food immoderately, preferring it ill prepared, using water seldom and sparingly, and—superadding an excitement of American origin—taking tobacco extravagantly. Health and long life are part of our lot: but we disown them by living as if requiring the stimulants of a frigid zone—complaining of the climate as our European ances-

tors left us the habit. Whilever the savage passion for inebriety prevails among a people with our perilous facilities of indulging it, it must continue a principal cause of the ills ascribed to weather, the accidents imputed to steam, the fires of which supposed incendiaries are accused, many of the risques charged to navigation, and the prime minister of disorder, distemper, death, and depopulation. The leprosy of menial slavery, contaminating our descent, though a more denounced, is not a more formidable evil, than this great stain and scourge of the country. In some classes the fashion of hard drinking has passed away with other colonial badges. But, in general, and, especially, among those to whom liquor and tobacco are most injurious, it is deplorable how much of their work and business, as well as entertainment and pleasure, from early infancy to extreme old age, is transacted under these destructive provocations. The abuses of Sunday, the irregularities of every holy day, the gambling, and debauchery, and misdemeanours, that take place, proceed in great measure from the neglected sources of intemperance. Not only our institutions but moral sense are lamentably wanting in this respect.

The philosophy of public recreation altogether is too much neglected among us. More at ease than any other people, and free to use leisure at

pleasure, we have scarcely an acknowledged holy day, and few places of respectable public resort. The provident founder of Philadelphia must have considered this popular need when he designated the open squares that have latterly received some municipal attention : which might be rendered, as is the case in all other climates and countries, an alternative for some, at least, of the private haunts of dissipation. The shores of the Schuylkill offer every thing wanting in this respect. The Society of Friends, if I am not mistaken, employ the principle of recreation with advantage in their Lunatic Asylum in this neighbourhood : and at a late settlement at Harmony, in the western part of Pennsylvania, it is to be introduced, upon what many deem, an extravagant scale of development.

The Penitentiary is entitled to distinct mention; and the transition to it is but too natural from intoxication. This main problem among the mild principles is about to be solved by fair and satisfactory demonstration. All mankind are deeply interested in the experiment : for if it fails in Philadelphia where it was conceived and began, its universal disrepute must ensue. It is worth the trial at any cost to determine whether more rational punishment is impracticable than public execution of the desperate, wrought up by enthusiasm to an effort of courage, and countenanced by sympathising multitudes. In theory at least and reason penitential seclusion from all in-

tercourse but with the terrors of conscience and the distress of inaction, appears to be much more severe and effectual: and we know that experience, as far as it has gone, confirms the theory. The jail now used is calculated only to frustrate and discredit the plan: being a place of mere confinement without solitude or other punishment; in which the malefactors of the whole state, indeed of many states, are crowded, in pernicious confusion, into a prison intended for the mere county of Philadelphia: and regulated moreover, by a palpable subversion of the laws of the commonwealth and the sentences of the courts.

Henceforth the gates of Pennsylvania will be penitentiaries. At the western and eastern entrances are erecting vast mansions of penitence, which, from Pittsburg and Philadelphia, will frown in inexorable granite on all the precincts of the State. Upon their walls should be inscribed the line from Dante's description of Hell,

Wretches who enter here leave hope behind.

The law enforced as pronounced, by solitary confinement, hard diet and absolute idleness, and the pardoning power reserved for great occasions, would probably deter from many crimes by the most philosophical, humane and intolerable of punishments.

Punishment, however, is but an accessorial and subordinate influence, at best. The preservative,

providential principle is education. I am authorised by the gentleman who so cordially and creditably presides over the State schools to say, and it is a gracious assertion, that no child, of either sex, or any complexion, need grow up uneducated in Philadelphia. The Sunday-schools which substitute employment and instruction for sloth and mischief, are most beneficial auxiliaries to the free-schools, which, however successful in Philadelphia, are not so acceptable throughout Pennsylvania. Schools for the languages and all the other usual rudiments of a good school education abound ; and nowhere, perhaps, in proportion to population, are more editions of the Greek and Latin classics published than in Philadelphia. It is in agitation to establish hereabouts on the best foundation a school similar to the military academy at West-point. A school of law has been instituted by gentlemen eminently qualified to render it useful. The medical school maintains its ascendancy, as the most frequented in America, having this year for the first time the impulse of a rival school in the same city. But some malediction seems to rest on the colleges of Pennsylvania. In the south and west new colleges are rising with great promise. Those of the east and north continue to flourish. Disclaiming all invidious censure or suggestion as to the cause it ought to be the anxious enquiry of every friend to improvement why this vital requisite should languish as it does

throughout this commonwealth. As early as 1686, immediately after Penn's settlement, a school was founded in Philadelphia, and a printing press set up. In 1689 a seminary or college was established by the Society of Friends, who at that early day bore their testimony, in the preamble to the Charter of this Institution, to the *importance of public schools and good education in reading, writing, learning languages, and useful arts and sciences to qualify youth to serve their country.*

America has now become the Free-School of the world. South America is at this juncture especially the pupil of this country. Among the many distinguished youth from that portion of this hemisphere who come to imbibe their principles by education among us, a nephew of the most illustrious citizen, bearing his glorious name, after completing his school education near Philadelphia, is about transferring his collegiate pursuits elsewhere. Why should not the university of Pennsylvania be the reservoir of honour, influence, and emolument which such scholars afford? Why not give governors to Pennsylvania, Presidents to the United States, and eminent men to both Americas? I could name professional men whose individual eminence draws wealth and regard and importance to Philadelphia. Such an institution as the university should be a chief resource of this city and the intellectual ornament of the State.

In the slight details of this homespun homily the foresight and principles of Penn have been partially explained by their effects among the progeny of his settlement. Perhaps fondly, but I hope not fancifully, certainly not falsely articulated, some of the physical and moral outlines, omitting the civil and social lineaments, have been brought into view. A few of the shades have been freely though kindly, touched. If this were the occasion, it might do good to depict such political, moral, and social infirmities as doubtless there are. For public adulation is as culpable as personal: and the time has come, when, having purified our blood of the degrading prejudices imbued by foreign opprobrium and colonial subserviency, we owe it to ourselves, and to all calumniators, as well as admirers, honestly to tell ourselves and them what our faults really are.

In displaying the character of Philadelphia we instance that of Pennsylvania, and of the whole country that surrounds, protects and resembles us. Selfish and local jealousy would be unworthy of any view of the traces of the founder of this city and State. The vulgar and foolish narrow-mindedness is exploded which supposes that either man or place can prosper alone; or that prosperity of either is to be purchased by the decline of others. It is the remarkable experience of this whole country that it all thrives together: and that when one part suffers any check the rest is

affected also. Long the capital of Pennsylvania, and for sometime the metropolis of the union, Philadelphia was but the common head in pioneering many of the great improvements of the new world. Become again nothing more than the *great town* which Penn called it, all may rejoice with us that the conservative energies of a homogenous nation, with natural advantages, supply the place of political patronage : while we rejoice with all that from Machias to Arkapolis and from Arkapolis to Tallahassee, the whole of our blessed and beloved country flourishes in peace together. It is the peculiar happiness of Americans to be attached not only to the exuberant soil and fine meridian of their habitation by the animal instincts of local affection ; but to be nurtured in the more rational love of those free institutions whose allegiance embraces reason as well as feeling, whose sovereignty has no treason or alienation to fear, without whose light and heat the most brilliant skies and fertile fields would be abandoned for the bleakest, the barrenest and the remotest where liberty might find a home. The pious forefathers of every province, from Plymouth to Pennsylvania, from Pennsylvania to Maryland, and from Maryland to Carolina, patient of all evils but the want of civil and religious freedom, the moral noblemen of many nations, the conscientious and indomitable of every tongue and sect, here, on these pilgrim

shores, raised the ark of that covenant which owns no superior but God on high, and no inferior but the vicious among themselves.

In the crucible of liberty, all the languages of Europe have been melted into one. In the temple of toleration, all religions have been sanctified. The forests of a continent have been weeded with sturdy hands, till its wilds have become the ways of pleasantness, and the paths of peace. With stout hearts and apt genius, the ocean has been tamed till it is part of the domain.

Plenty empties her full horn into the lap of tranquillity. Commerce fetches riches from every latitude. The earth and mountains are quick with inexhaustible productions. Domestic industry contributes its infinite creations. Poetry, history, architecture, sculpture, painting, and music, daily add their memorials. Yet these are as nothing. *Vix ea nostra voco*—enjoyments scarcely acknowledged—all local advantages would be disregarded, if they were not recommended by the religious, social, and political principles we enjoy with them.

Let us cultivate, and vindicate, and perpetuate this country, not only by the power and sympathies of heroic exploits, but by the nobler attractions of all the arts of peace. Ours is the country of principles, not place: where the domestic virtues reign, in union with the rights of man; where intense patriotism is the natural

